IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

a registering unit configured to register a maker group having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

an organizing unit configured to organize the maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a confirming unit configured to confirm the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group; and

a recording unit configured to record the interface-confirmed maker group; and

an introducing unit configured to introduce the maker group having the interfaces, including:

a retrieving unit configured to retrieve the maker group that satisfies specifications set for the semiconductor device.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said registering unit includes an inviting unit configured to invite the makers.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes a selecting unit configured to assist the retrieved maker

group selected for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes an assisting unit configured to assist to determine the

specifications.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

said introducing unit includes a scheduling unit configured to schedule delivery dates

when the makers of the retrieved maker group hand over the intermediate results.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer program implemented by a computer for

assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, the computer

program comprising:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to register a maker group having

interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker

of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device,

including:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to organize the maker

group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of the

semiconductor device in collaboration with one another;

a function implemented by the computer, configured to confirm the interfaces

among the makers in the organized maker group; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to record the interface-

confirmed maker group; and

a function implemented by the computer, configured to introduce the maker group

having the interfaces, including:

a function implemented by the computer, configured to retrieve the maker

group that satisfies specifications set for the semiconductor device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to register includes a function implemented by the computer,

configured to invite the makers.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to select the retrieved maker group for placing the order for

manufacturing the semiconductor device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to assist to determine the specifications.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The computer program as in claim 6, wherein:

said function configured to introduce includes a function implemented by the

computer, configured to schedule delivery dates when the makers of the retrieved maker

group hand over the intermediate results.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order

for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store the names of makers; and

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store categories in a one-to-one relationship with the makers.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 11, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store features in a one-to-one relationship with the makers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the manufacturing capability and accuracy of the maker.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes the names of makers with which the maker in question desires to be interfaced and the names of makers with which the maker in question is already interfaced.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 12, wherein:

the feature of each maker includes a turnaround time needed by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A data structure usable for assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

an area to store categories of semiconductor device manufacture; and

an area related to said area to store categories, to store the names of makers in a maker group that has manufactured a semiconductor device, in a one-to-one relationship with the categories.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 16, further comprising:

an area related to said area to store the names of makers, to store manufacturing capability indexes of each maker in a one-to-one relationship with the names of makers.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The data structure as in claim 17, wherein:

the manufacturing capability indexes of each maker include a turnaround time needed by the maker to manufacture a semiconductor device and a price charged by the maker to manufacture the semiconductor device.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A computer implemented method of assisting the placing of an order for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

registering a maker group using a registering unit of a controller of a computer, said maker group having interfaces configured to hand over intermediate results from an upper maker to a lower maker of makers of the maker group in a manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device, including:

organizing the maker group from the makers of different categories in the manufacturing flow of the semiconductor device in collaboration with one another using an organizing unit of the controller;

confirming the interfaces among the makers in the organized maker group using a confirming unit of the controller; and

recording the interface-confirmed maker group using a recording unit of the controller; and

introducing the maker group having the interfaces using an introducing unit of the controller, including:

retrieving the maker group that satisfies specifications set for the semiconductor device using a retrieving unit of the controller.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The computer implemented method as in claim 19, wherein:

said registering a maker group includes inviting the makers using an inviting unit of the controller.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The computer implemented method as in claim 19, wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting the retrieved maker group selected for placing the order for manufacturing the semiconductor device using a selecting unit of the controller.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The computer implemented method as in claim 19, wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes assisting to determine the specifications using an assisting unit of the controller.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The computer implemented method as in claim 19, wherein:

said introducing maker groups includes scheduling delivery dates when the makers of the retrieved maker group hand over the intermediate results using a scheduling unit of the controller.

Claim 24 (new): A method for registering a maker configured to manufacture a semiconductor device, comprising:

inviting a first maker to register by a first maker computer;

inputting a request for a registration in the first maker computer by the first maker;

prompting the first maker to input a category to which the first maker belongs by the first maker computer, the category being one of categories to which makers manufacturing the semiconductor device in collaboration belong;

inputting the category to which the first maker belongs in the first maker computer by the first maker;

prompting the first maker to input second makers of other categories with which the first maker is to be interfaced by the first maker computer;

inputting the second makers in the first maker computer by the first maker;

prompting the first maker to input features including products and techniques specific to the first maker by the first maker computer;

inputting the features in the first maker computer by the first maker;

prompting the first maker to manufacture a sample semiconductor device used to confirm a correctness of interfaces among the first maker and the second makers by the first maker computer;

prompting the second makers to manufacture the sample semiconductor device by a second maker computer;

manufacturing the sample semiconductor device by the first maker and the second

makers in collaboration;

prompting a server to register the first maker and the second makers as a maker group

having the interfaces by the first maker computer; and

registering the first maker and the second makers as the maker group by the server.

Claim 25 (new): A method for introducing a maker group configured to manufacture

a semiconductor device, comprising:

displaying a registered interface between makers by a user computer;

introducing a registered maker to a user by the user computer;

prompting the user to input a specification of the semiconductor device by the user

computer;

inputting the specification by the user;

prompting the user computer to propose registered maker groups that satisfy the

specification by the user;

proposing the maker groups to the user by the user computer;

requesting the user computer to display turnaround times of makers of the maker

groups by the user;

displaying the turnaround times of the makers of the maker groups by the user

computer;

requesting the user computer to display prices to be charged by the makers of the

maker groups by the user;

prompting the user to select one of the maker groups by the user computer;

selecting one of the maker groups by the user;

prompting the user to determine whether or not delivery dates must be fixed by the user computer;

determining whether or not the delivery dates must be fixed by the user;

informing makers of the selected maker group, the delivery dates, by maker computers;

prompting the makers of the selected maker group to determine whether the delivery dates are acceptable or not;

determining whether the delivery dates are acceptable or not by the makers of the selected maker group;

informing the user, decisions of the makers of the selected maker group regarding the delivery dates, by the user computer;

prompting the user to determine whether the delivery dates must be adjusted or another maker group must be selected;

determining whether the delivery dates must be adjusted or another maker group must be selected by the user;

prompting the user to determine whether the delivery dates must be reserved or abandoned by the user computer;

determining whether the delivery dates must be reserved or abandoned by the user; and

informing the makers of the selected maker group the delivery dates to be reserved by the maker computers.